

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Brandenburg/Briest Airfield:
Construction, Aircraft, AA
Guns and Personnel

DATE DISTR. 31 MAY 1960

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

report on Brandenburg/

Briest airfield which gives information on the following: (1) Work on the main runway, (2) Clearance work on the east side where a taxiway will be built, (3) Helicopters, (4) Arrival of an East German Army AA unit, and (5) AA gun emplacements. A rough sketch showing the locations of construction work and installations is also included.

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EAST GERMANYAIR/MILITARYBRANDENBURG/BRIEST Airfield(1 - 9 April 60)

1. I.T.B. BRANDENBURG are at present engaged in clearance work on the East side of BRANDENBURG/BRIEST airfield. The concreting section (Abteilung Betonbau) of I.T.B. is at the same time undertaking concreting work on the main runway.
2. The main runway, which is some 50-60 m. wide, is being strengthened at the East end. Hitherto it has been made up of 16 strips of concrete, each nearly 4 m. broad.
3. The runway had become badly damaged through the effects of war and weather and had been covered with a thick tarry substance. Sections of it had sunk below the level of the rest and considerable gaps had appeared.
4. Hitherto the runway has had a cement depth of some 15-20 cm. It is now being given a fresh cement coverage, also of some 15-20 cm., thus doubling the depth.
5. From the East end of the runway 8 of the cement strips nearly 4 m. broad have already been re-covered for a distance of approximately 1000 m. The strips are not re-covered in sequence, working from one side to the other. One strip is left clear between each two re-covered strips, and treated later.
6. It is intended that when the work has been completed the whole runway will have a cement depth of some 40 cm. It is not possible to make the runway of exactly the same depth throughout as the parts that have sunk have to be made good and correspondingly thickened.
7. There is no evidence that the runway is to be lengthened at the East end. A taxi-track some 350-400 m. long is being built to run South from the East end of the runway. From the South end of this taxi-track another runway or taxi-track will run West, parallel with the main runway. The two new taxi tracks will have a width of at least 20 m.
8. The clearance work at present being undertaken by I.T.B. BRANDENBURG consists of clearing the area at the East side, where the taxi-track will be built, of bushes, undergrowth, and soil.
9. In early April 24 helicopters were stationed on the airfield, of two different types. Both types have one rotor above the cabin but the larger type has 4 chassis wheels on two axles while the smaller has a nose-wheel and two rear wheels on one axle.

SECRET

50X1-HUM

/10

SECRET

- 2 -

10. All the machines are painted dark green and have the black-red-gold colours of the DDR painted on the side of the cabin. Some 10 machines were tarpaulin-covered.

50X1-HUM

12. Every day 2-3 of the helicopters made practice flights together. Such flights also take place during the night. Most of the flights are of very short duration and consist of little more than a circular tour of the airfield.

13. The only other machine seen on the airfield during the period given was one single-engined plane. This plane, and the helicopters, are normally parked near the airfield buildings on the South side of the field.

14. During the night of 2-3 April 60 an E.G.A. A/A unit arrived on the airfield. It is not known where the unit came from. The troops are living in tents which are pitched in a wooded corner some 150 m. North of the East end of the main runway.

15. The guns have been set up some 300 m. East of the East end of the main runway. In all there are 10-12 guns of at least 85 mm. calibre. They have been dug in around an area some 400 m. in diameter. From the East end of the main runway only the gun muzzles and part of the barrels are visible. Communication trenches have been dug between the gun positions.

16. At the North and South extremities of the area occupied by the guns is a round, disk-shaped radar dish. It is mounted on a square box body but it is not known whether this forms part of a truck or is ground-mounted.

17. Since arrival the A/A troops have been training daily. No firing has however taken place. At least two range-finders have been set up within the area of the gun positions.

18. It is not known where the unit has parked its vehicles but 2 x TPM M-1954 have been seen, driven by the A/A troops.

19. Attached at Appendix "A" is a rough sketch showing where the work at the East end of the runway is taking place, the approximate position of the new taxi tracks, troops' camp, gun positions etc.

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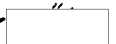
Appendix "A"



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Radar



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